

**OPENING STATEMENT**  
**CONGRESSMAN PETER T. KING**  
**before the**  
**HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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*“Monetary Policy Report of Chairman Alan Greenspan”*

Welcome Chairman Greenspan. It is a pleasure to have you back before this Committee and I look forward to your insightful report on the state of the economy.

It is evident that the U.S. economy has rebounded from the 2000-2001 recession that was exacerbated by the 9/11 terrorist attacks and corporate scandals. The employment situation is encouraging with 20 straight months of job creation and more than 2.7 million jobs added to our economy since August 2003. The unemployment rate is currently lower than the average rate during the 70s, 80s, and 90s. Housing starts remain strong, recently reaching the highest level of new construction in nearly 21 years. The Federal Open Market Committee should be commended for its measured approach in ensuring the continued strength of our economy.

While there is much to be optimistic about, we still face challenges as we move forward. With the approaching retirement of the baby boom generation, I am concerned about the state of Social Security. At the outset of this program, Social Security had 16 workers supporting every retiree; now there are 3 for every retiree; and soon there will be only 2 workers for every retiree. The time to reform Social Security is now so we can ensure that younger generations are provided for.

Mr. Chairman, I am interested to hear your perspective on the state of Social Security and your suggestions for confronting this issue.

Once again, I look forward to your testimony.